

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Categorical Exclusion Not Established By Statute
DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0274-CX**

October, 2014

Rocky Mountain Glider Company Hang Gliding Event

Location: Vernal, Utah

Applicant/Address: 170 South 500 East, Vernal, Utah 84078.

Vernal Field Office
170 South 500 East
Vernal, Utah 84078
(435) 781-4400



CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FORMAT WHEN USING CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS NOT ESTABLISHED BY STATUTE

A. Background

BLM Office: Vernal Field Office Special Use Permit No: VFO2015-E001

Proposed Action Title: Rocky Mountain Glider Company Hang Gliding Event

Location of Proposed Action: Blue Mountain, Utah

Description of Proposed Action: To conduct a hang gliding event utilizing the cliff ridges on Blue Mountain Plateau.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Vernal RMP Date Approved/Amended: October 2008

Option 1 ☐: The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

Option 2 ☒: The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions): (list). Rec – 5 Allows for SRP issuance and SRMA1 – allows for hang gliding in Blue Mountain SRMA

C. Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, H.1. This CX is for issuance of SRPs for up to 14 consecutive nights that impacts no more than three day use or overnight use staging area acres.

D. Attachments:

Stipulations for the Blue Mountain Hang Gliding Event

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR Part 46.215 apply.

I considered the impacts to the resources within this project area and conducted onsite with specialists to determine if there were any significant impacts. As documented in the Extraordinary Circumstances Worksheet there are no significant impacts.

D: Signature

Authorizing Official: /s/ Michelle Brown Date: 10/1/14

Michelle Brown

Assistant Field Manager Renewable Resources

Categorical Exclusion Review Record

Resource	Assigned Specialist Signature	Date
Air Quality	Stephanie Howard	10-01-2014
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Bill Civish	10-01-2014
Cultural Resources	Jimmie McKenzie	10-1-2014
Environmental Justice	Bill Civish	10-01-2014
Farm Lands (prime or unique)	Bill Civish	10-01-2014
Floodplains	Bill Civish	10-01-2014
Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds	Christine Cimiluca	10-01-2014
Migratory Birds	Dixie Sadlier	10-01-2014
Native American Religious Concerns	Jimmie McKenzie	10-1-2014
Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Species	Dixie Sadlier Christine Cimiluca	10-01-2014 10-01-2014
Wastes (hazardous or solid)	Bill Civish	10-01-2014
Water Quality (surface/ground)	Bill Civish	10-01-2014
Wetlands / Riparian Zones	Bill Civish	10-01-2014
Wild and Scenic Rivers	Bill Civish	10-01-2014
Wilderness	Bill Civish	10-01-2014

Environmental Coordinator /s/ Stephanie J Howard Date: 10/1/14

Extraordinary Circumstance to Categorical Exclusions

Exceptions to Categorical Exclusion Documentation

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) apply. The project would:

Extraordinary Circumstances		
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: <i>This event is being conducted by an experienced company that is insured and the contestants are experienced and licensed hang gliders.</i>
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		
Yes	No X	<i>This area is in the SRMA 1 of the Vernal RMP 2008 allowing for hang gliding events on the Blue Mountain Plateau. The area has been improved by the VFO BLM to conduct launches off the cliff faces of Blue Mountain.</i>
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102 (2) (E)].		
Yes	No X	Rationale: <i>This event has been taking place off and on for the past 25 years and is welcomed by Uintah County, Utah and Moffat County, Colorado, Vernal City, Utah and Dinosaur, Colorado</i>
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: <i>This event has been held many times in the past with no known significant impacts or complaints from the public or the BLM.</i>
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: <i>This is a one-time event. Each year the event is held it is reevaluated.</i>
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: <i>There are no other projects to which this event has a direct relationship..</i>
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.		

Extraordinary Circumstances		
Yes	No X	Rationale: <i>Cultural surveys have been completed; the appropriate data bases have been reviewed; and appropriate concurrence from SHPO and tribes have been received indicating that significant impacts are not expected.</i>
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: <i>Appropriate level of Threatened and Endangered Species review, surveys, and coordination and any required consultation, conformance, or concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been received indicating that impacts would not be significant. If applicable confirm that coordination with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has been completed.</i>
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: <i>Does not violate the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, county ordinances, and state statutes.</i>
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		
Yes	No X	Rationale: <i>This event generates revenue for the surrounding counties and towns and does not have an adverse effect on Environmental Justice.</i>
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		
Yes	No X	Rationale: <i>There are no known sacred sites within the event area.</i>
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		
Yes	No X	Rationale: <i>The event takes place off of existing roads and has a designated parking area built by the BLM. Stipulations for this event state that retrieval vehicles will operate on existing roads.</i>